

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2108 without my signature.

As the father of four, I am very supportive of laws designed to protect children. Unfortunately, simply increasing the maximum age requirement for children to be restrained by vehicle booster seats, as proposed by AB 2108, will do little to actually better protect our children.

Parental responsibility is the key to protecting our children. Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) show overwhelmingly that driver restraint use is the strongest predictor of child restraint use. It is most often the case that those that use seatbelts themselves also properly restrain their young passengers. Conversely, those who disregard seatbelt laws also fail to properly secure their children. If all adults responsible for young children were to comply with current laws related to child restraint systems, many tragic injuries and deaths could be avoided. As such, the way to better protect our children is through education of and compliance with existing laws, not the addition of new ones.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger